



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

February 13, 2023

Miyoko Sakashita  
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RE: Freedom of Information Act Request EPA-2023-000908

Dear Ms. Sakashita,

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request, which was received on November 18, 2022, requesting access to records related to Clean Water Act violations for offshore oil and gas extraction facilities. The facility data you have requested is available to the public in EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) website at: <https://echo.epa.gov/>.

ECHO provides compliance, inspection and enforcement information about facilities regulated under to Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA makes this data available to the public free of charge.

The website provides a single place to find up-to-date regulatory compliance and enforcement data with fast, integrated searches of EPA and state data for more than 800,000 regulated facilities. ECHO focuses on inspection, violation, and enforcement data for the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), with Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data included for context. ECHO also contains EPA enforcement data for other environmental laws such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

ECHO provides an integrated and aggregated view across multiple environmental databases. The information contained is difficult to find elsewhere because the information resides in multiple data systems - many not easily available through public searching. In general, ECHO facility reports offer three years of violation data and five years of compliance monitoring and enforcement data, with additional years of EPA enforcement data available via the EPA Enforcement Case Search (<https://echo.epa.gov/facilities/enforcement-case-search>). In the event the website reports do not meet your needs, bulk data downloads are available at <https://echo.epa.gov/tools/data-downloads>.

These are the instructions for downloading the requested data from ECHO. First, go to the following ECHO webpage (<https://echo.epa.gov/tools/data-downloads/icis-npdes-dmr-and-limit-data-set>). Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data and related violation data are available by fiscal year to facilitate use of the information. Data are from the EPA national system of record, ICIS-NPDES. The following ECHO pages below describe the data fields in these download files.

- [ICIS-NPDES Permit Limit Summary](#): Description of the ECHO permit limit data
- [ICIS-NPDES DMR Summary](#): Description of the ECHO DMR data

Second, select the jurisdiction and fiscal year of interest to you. For example, to download data for offshore oil and gas extraction facilities in the Western Gulf of Mexico, select “Gulf of Mexico” and then the fiscal year of interest to you. The data files should download immediate to your computer as zip files. You can repeat this process for other fiscal years. Inside the zip file is a spreadsheet for permit limits and another spreadsheet for the DMR data. Link the permit limit and DMR data using the LIMIT\_SET\_ID field. The LIMIT\_SET\_ID field is a unique key for each limit set and should be used to link limits and DMR and related violation data.

ECHO refreshes its data on a weekly schedule, so changes in the source data systems are generally reflected on ECHO within 7 days – details are available on the About the Data page at <https://echo.epa.gov/resources/echo-data/about-the-data#sources>. If you have questions or comments while exploring ECHO, feel free to use the ‘Contact Us’ button on the top right of each page. Here are some links to get you started:

- <https://echo.epa.gov/resources/general-info/learn-more-about-echo>
- <https://echo.epa.gov/help/tutorials>
- <https://echo.epa.gov/resources/general-info/echo-faq>

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov), or by mail to the EPA’s National FOIA Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2310A), Washington, DC 20460. If you are submitting your appeal by hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., WJC-N Building, Room 7309C, Washington, DC 20460.

Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 pm EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.”

Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government

Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone: (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax: (202) 741-5769. For all media inquiries, please contact [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call Kjuana Jenkins, of my staff, at (215) 814-2396.

Sincerely,

Jane Wallace, Acting Director  
Enforcement Targeting and Data Division